



SIR GEORGE WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY

MONTREAL 107, CANADA

THE UNIVERSITY POSITION ON SUSPENSIONS

All the students who appeared before the courts on criminal charges arising out of the forcible occupation and destruction of the computer centre received a letter from the Acting Principal stating that they were suspended until the final disposition of any related charges "presently laid or to be laid" against them.

The University would have been justified in expelling students arrested at the time and on the scene of the commission of serious offences which endangered human life. All of them had ample opportunity to withdraw during the early hours of Tuesday, February 11, and all of them were charged with participation in the same criminal activities. However, concerned not to prejudge the accused while taking action necessary to preserve safety and order, the University decided rather to effect their immediate administrative suspension.

In addition, it should be noted that in all cases where bail was granted the court expressly forbade the accused to enter or approach university property.

The University has stated that any of the accused students who are found innocent will have their suspension lifted, and where possible arrangements will be made to assist them to make up for the course-time they have lost.

On the other hand, disciplinary action will be taken against any who are found guilty, the severity of such action to depend on the nature of the offence.

The six students who appeared before the Juvenile Court were found guilty of mischief and held responsible for interfering with the use of university property. In addition, other students, who have still to face preliminary hearings on charges resulting from the same events, cannot return to the University. In these circumstances, the University has decided that the suspension of these six students must be maintained for the time being. However, their situation will receive careful and continuing study, and a decision about their status in the next academic year will be made by the end of the summer.

March 24, 1969

Douglass Burns Clarke
Acting Principal